

# WØMTL - Mark Twain Land Area News - WØKEM

## JUNE, 2009



*Warm, Sunny Days Ahead!!*

**PRAISE GOD FOR HIS BOUNTIFUL GIFTS IN  
THIS LAND OF PLENTY; OUR RENEWAL OF  
SEASONS, AND REMEMBER OUR COUNTRY IS  
THE BEST, AND WE NEED TO PRAY FOR OUR  
COUNTRY, OUR SOLDIERS, OUR LEADERS,  
AND OURSELVES!!**

### HARC OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT: HOWARD BARNES, KØDFW  
V-PRES: J.D. SINCLAIR, WØAJD  
SECRETARY: FRED MILLER, KBØWIL  
TREASURER: TONY GILLILAND, WØPGL  
TRUSTEE: CLIFF AHRENS, KØCA  
EDITOR: BONNIE SINCLAIR, WBØWAP**

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday  
JUNE 10, at 7:30 PM**

Regular Meetings are held at Beth Haven Nursing Home, 2500 Pleasant St., Hannibal, Mo.  
Enter at the main entrance; turn left through the lounge area to the elevator. Take the elevator down to the first floor, and go to your right/left around the corner, down the hall to the cafeteria.

### **FCC VE TEST DATES FOR YEAR OF 2009 Hannibal, MO ARC 2009 Exam Dates**

**Wednesday, July 8, 2009 - 8:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, October 14, 2009 - 8:30 p.m.**

Exams will take place at 8:30 PM after the regular scheduled HARC meeting. The exam session will be at the Beth Haven Nursing Home, in the Cafeteria on the 1st (lower) Floor, 2500 Pleasant St., Hannibal, MO. Registration is required at least 72 hours before the exam session by contacting the team liaison, Fred Miller- KBØWIL at [kb0wil@arrl.net](mailto:kb0wil@arrl.net) or 573-221-2429.

The 2009 test fee will be \$15.00. It goes to ARRL/VEC. Bring a photo ID (or two non-photo ID's); if currently licensed, bring the original and a photocopy of your valid FCC license; and if you are claiming credit for successful completion of an exam, bring the original and photocopy of any applicable CSCE's.



### **PLANT AN IDEA!**

**REMEMBER THIS IS YOUR CLUB!! BE  
SURE TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL OF THE  
ACTIVITIES, AND SUGGEST AN ACTIVITY  
THAT WILL KEEP THE INTEREST UP IN  
OUR CLUB. MOST OF ALL, PARTICIPATE!!**



**HANNIBAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
MINUTES**



**Minutes of the meeting recorded by:  
Fred-KBØWIL...HARC Secretary...**

**Date:** May 13th, 2009

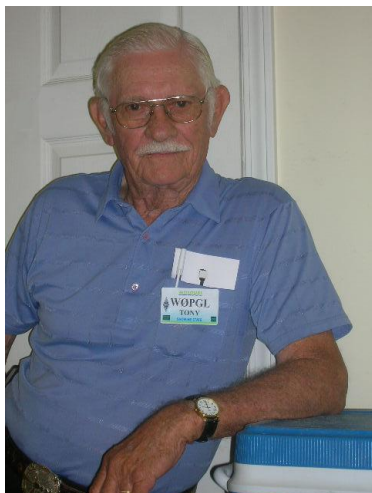
**Location:** Beth Haven Nursing Home 2500  
Pleasant St. Hannibal, Mo 63401

**Meeting called to order by:** Howie-KØDFW

**Approval of minutes in newsletter:**

Date of previous meeting: April, 8th 2009  
Motion to approve: Kyle-KDØEBL Seconded by:  
Cliff-KØCA

**Treasurers report:** Tony-WØPGL



Cash-\$1,080.54, CD-\$1,274.02, Total-\$2,354.56  
Motion to approve: Cliff-KØCA  
Seconded by: J.D.-WØAJD

**Repeater report:** Fred-KBØWIL

The 146.625 repeater is sounding great, we have occasional noise on the 146.880 repeater caused by the paging service.

**K9P Special Event: USPSA -Single Stack  
Nationals  
PASA Park Barry, Ill. April, 2009**

**K9P Special Event update:** Saturday May 2nd was a great day outside at the Redneck Retreat. We made approximately 140 QSO,s , 60 on SSB, and 80 on CW/Digital modes. Thanks to all who came over and participated in this fun event. A very special thanks to Nancy & Carol for letting the club set up at Redneck Retreat, and for all the great food they made for us. We wouldn't have ever made it, if it wasn't for Carol's great supervisory skills. Ha, Ha. Thanks also to Dave-W9WE, who came over, and worked CW a few evenings in his mobile rig. We even got Luan-KC9PGS on the air, and helped us operate. This was the clubs 5th year using the K9P Special Event call sign.

**Field Day: June 27-28, 2009**

Don't forget that Field Day is June 27th-June 28th, in Huckleberry Park, Hannibal Mo. We will discuss Field Day in more detail at next months meeting. We are planning on having (3) stations on the air, maybe even (4) if we have a digital rig set up.

Fred-KBØWIL is in charge of securing the pavilion in Huckleberry Park.

Click on this link below, to find the WØKEM Field Day Locator or any other Field Day site.

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>

**HARC Barbeque August 2009:**

We will have our annual club barbeque on Saturday August 1st, 2009. It will be at Huckleberry Park Pavilion. Fred-KBØWIL will take care of the reservations for the pavilion.

**Note:** The Quincy hamfest is on Saturday August 8th, 2009.

**50/50:** Won by Tony-WØPGL, and he donated it back to the club. Thanks Tony, the club appreciates it.

**Tonight's program:** Bruce Frahm-KØBJ presented a slide show and commentary on the Special Event K4S located at Mt. Sunflower, Kansas, the highest point in Kansas, elevation of 4039 ft. They operate on the VHF segment of the band most of the time, during this Special Event. It takes place the second weekend of August, and they have worked it with this call sign of K4S for several years. Thanks Bruce for this very interesting and informative presentation.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Total members: 14

Total guests: 3

Total in attendance: 17

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK  
JUNE 2009**

**BY HOWARD BARNES KØDFW**

It's June, and that means..... FIELD DAY!!! June 27 and 28. We will start at 1:00 pm Saturday and operate till 1:00 pm Sunday. At present we are talking about running 2 SSB Stations and a CW Station and maybe possibly a digital station. I am looking for CW OPERATORS!!!!!! Anyone out there that wants to run CW is most welcome to come, and run the key. C W carries the club on field day and if you notice I cater to the comfort of my CW operators. Cushy chairs ..... plenty to drink..... bug spray ..... baked potato and steak :-))! Well, you get the idea so if you want to run cw get with me, and we will pencil you in on the schedule! We will be discussing this in full details at the next meeting. I need for everyone to show up for the meeting and we will discuss what equipment we will need, and how we are going to set it up.

We had a good meeting at the last meeting in May. We had Bruce Frahm KØBJ from out in Kansas, drop in on his way to the Dayton

Hamvention, and put on a talk about their special event station K4S for Sunflower Station broadcasting from the highest point in Kansas, not far from the Colorado line, which is also the lowest point in Colorado! He had some great pictures, and a very interesting talk. He also talked about their 14,000 er event where hams climb all the peaks in Colorado over 14,000 feet up and work vhf. Man these people have to love ham radio to do what they do. I think this is one event that I will set out, or at the least work the ones on the peaks!!

We are adding on some new members, and I want to ask if you know anyone out there that wants to become a ham to give us a call, or work with them, and encourage them to come to Field Day and participate and learn about ham radio. We need to increase the size of our club and build up interest in our activities.

Don't forget that we will be having a Club Bar B Que on the first Saturday in August. The club will be furnishing the meat, and the fine bar b quers to cook the meat. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish, and your table settings. This is a fun time to just relax, and have a good meal and shoot the bull!! Don't miss it!

Hey, we will see you all at the next meeting June 10th!

73s

Howard

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**DAYTON HAMVENTION REPORT  
2009**

**BY HOWARD BARNES KØDFW**



**Who is it!!!! The Umbrella Gang!!**

Thursday, after much planning and anticipation, we, Oral and I, slowly gathered all our gear (junk) and threw it in my truck. Being most of 1000 pounds over weight, (I could tell by the way my tires were squatting on my truck) we slowly started for Fred's house. On the drive to

Hannibal, to load Fred's gear, (junk and empty bags to haul loot home in from the Hamvention) I kept noticing Oral kept holding onto this plastic bag of something that he wasn't talking about much, but I knew by the smirk look on his face that he was up to something!

As we arrived at Fred's house, we could tell Fred was all ready to go. He had a pile of empty bags piled 6 foot high on his drive way. In his travel bag it didn't weigh 2 pounds. We asked him why he was traveling so light. He said to make room for all the free stuff that they give away at the convention. We looked in his clothes bag, and he had one pair of socks, one pair of shorts with hearts on them that said "Mother I love you" and a T shirt with Joe's Diner printed on it! Well, after loading in another 1000 pounds of gear (junk) of Fred's, I noticed that now my truck was 2000 pounds overweight, and that we were going to have to dodge all the scales from here to Dayton.

Ok, we all got into the truck, and I was about to put it in gear, and Oral opened that plastic bag, and gave out notice that he had a fresh supply of Fiber Bars that General Mills make, where he works... well puts in his time, and that he had a weeks supply of these very potent bars to eat. At General Mills, these bars are referred to as "FART BARS" and for a very good reason. If you eat one of these things, you blow up like a balloon, and let the hot air begin to pass!

Well, Fred wolfed down 3 of these bars, and said they were really good, and I noticed Oral in the back seat just finishing off his 3rd bar, and I knew that we were in trouble with all that methane in production, and being cooped up in that small truck cab. Well, to make a long story short, we rode to Dayton with our windows "down"!

The Hamvention, to me, seemed to be up this year with, I would guess, about 20,000 hams there, and the vendors had some hot deals, and oh yeah, the Free stuff that Fred looks for! We had some rain, but for the most part, the rain was at night, and the days were pretty nice. With an occasional shower, and occasional sunshine. We tail gated in the parking lot where we always park, and N9JF Jim, met up with us out there, and he brought his binoculars to do bird watching, while we ate our lunch. He said he id'ed 26 species of birds, and he got up out of his chair, and started to hooping and whistling, and jumping up and down calling birds, and birds started to come in from everywhere. He was naming off names that I hadn't ever heard of, and I have spent a lot of time in the woods in my lifetime listening and hunting! I

tell you, this man is a bird finder.

The ARRL had an outstanding demo there with all hands on board for service to their members, and they were some of the nicest people there, and we got to see a lot of activities there for the hams and kids and mom as well! Fred picked up all the free stuff that they would let him have!

We spent a solid 2 full days there, looking at it all, and had a ball. We met a lot of old friends there, and made some new ones. One new one, was a ham from Sweden that had flown over, and was in the ARRL section taking it all in. He was real neat to talk to, and said he got some cheap airline tickets, and came over for the weekend.

Bruce K0BJ, our Midwest director was there checking DXCC cards as well as our own K0CA Cliff. Cliff is the vice director to Bruce's position, and both of them were working in the DXCC booth in the ARRL section. Great work guys!

Well, that pretty well sums it all up, except for Fred going skinny dipping in the hotel indoor pool at midnight, with one of the gals that work at the hotel desk at night! We had to rent a trailer to haul all the gear (free stuff) that Fred brought back with him, and as for the Fart Bars ..... Fred and Oral polished them all off before we went back home. Man it is nice to ride with the windows up!!

That's it for 2009 report! We have our rooms reserved for next year, and we will once again: HEAD FOR DAYTON!!!!!!

Pictures submitted by Howie

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**KBØWIL, KBØECF, N9JF**



**CLIFF, KØCA**



**KBØWIL, KBØECF, N9JF**



**BRUCE, KØBJ**



**The new Ham Generation hard at it at the Dayton Hamvention!**



**DX Horizons**  
**June 2009**  
 by **Cliff Ahrens K0CA**



The Dayton Hamvention 2009 was another fun running of this annual world-wide gathering of hams. Friday was gorgeous, with cool and sunny weather. Saturday had intermittent rain showers, but of course it wouldn't be Dayton if it didn't rain sometime during the weekend. If there was ever a question whether DX is alive and well, it was answered by the huge volume of business the DXCC card checkers did, particularly on Friday. I don't know how many thousands of cards were checked, but interest in DXCC is still very high. Just imagine what it will be like in a few years when more sunspots show up! As regular readers of this article know, I've been talking for several years about putting up a receive antenna for the low bands. But every year the snow starts flying before I've done anything. Well, this year at Dayton, I ordered a K9AY multi-directional receive loop antenna kit. If I start on this project early, maybe it will be ready for next winter!

This month I'm going to try a change in the format of my DX Horizons article. In the past, I've included information about some of the upcoming DX planned for the next month. But a monthly snapshot is not as current or complete as the several good, free DX bulletins that update this information weekly. These include the ARRL DX Bulletin, the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin, and the 425 DX News. If you're not already subscribed to these, just do a Google or other search and get on their email lists. Instead, I'll comment on DX and operating tips, computer software, hardware, and

other topics of interest to DXers. Another great source of DX information is Bernie W3UR's The Daily DX and The Weekly DX, which are available for an annual fee.

Are you interested in CW, but having trouble copying callsigns? If so, check out a free program called RufzXP. It's excellent training software for improving code speed and CW practice by copying call signs. The program will send callsigns at 8 words per minute and faster. The program sends random selected true amateur radio calls to be typed into the keyboard. If the call has been copied correctly, the transmitting speed increases; if not, it decreases. It's a lot of fun, and a great CW practice tool. And it runs fine under Vista too. For more information, or to download RufzXP, go to: <http://www.rufzxp.net/>.

Some time ago, I mentioned a free Windows Vista gadget that will allow you to watch DX spots in the sidebar or desktop. The author, Alex, KR1ST, has just updated the gadget, to make it work with the new DX Summit. Get it at: <http://www.kr1st.com/spotter.htm>. You can select from different bands and modes. You can even have Spotter search for a DX call sign so that whenever someone spots that station, it will show it in the spotting window. It's very convenient to quickly check the DX Summit from your computer's desktop without having to run Internet Explorer. It's a great tool for the DX'er.

That's it for this month. Don't forget to check the latest DX news in the weekly DX bulletins.

73 and good DX, Cliff K0CA

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**Bruce Frahm K0BJ**  
**Hannibal ARC Meeting**

Bruce Frahm K0BJ, the ARRL Midwest Division Director, attended the Hannibal ARC's May club meeting, and gave an interesting presentation on the K4S Mt. Sunflower special event operation. This event is put on by Bruce's home club, the Trojan ARC of Colby, KS. Mt. Sunflower is the highest point in Kansas, at all of 4039 feet, and is 2/3 of a mile from Colorado. Bruce was Vice Director of the ARRL Midwest Division for 13 years, and became Director in 2006, following the death of Director Wade Walstrom W0EJ. Bruce was elected to a three-year term as Director starting in January, 2009. We were pleased to have Bruce join us for the club meeting while he was on the way to the Dayton Hamvention.



HARC May Club Meeting



Mt. Sunflower



\*Article and pictures supplied by Cliff, KØCA

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**HARC MONDAY NIGHT NET**  
**CALL LIST OF VOLUNTEER OPERATORS**  
**JUNE 2009**

|    |        |       |
|----|--------|-------|
| 1  | N9UPG  | BILL  |
| 8  | KB9VIS | BRIAN |
| 15 | KBØWIL | FRED  |
| 22 | WØAJD  | JD    |
| 29 | WØPGL  | TONY  |

Thanks to all of you who do this!! We do need more volunteers; if you are able to take one week a month, we would really appreciate it.

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**KERMIT CRAIG – KØZXQ**  
Submitted by Kermit

I was born in Napier, Missouri, November 25, 1928, which was a very small town on the CB&Q railroad, between St. Joseph and Council Bluffs, Iowa. I was about 12 years old when I built my first home-brew rig. It consisted of a crystal, a coil wound around a cardboard oats container, an old pair of earphones, and a random length of wire hanging from appendages in my bedroom. If I was lucky, on a clear night, I could faintly hear a local radio station on my "crystal set". Through the years I owned several receivers because I enjoyed listening to short wave. I was employed as a signal helper on the CB&Q in 1947, and was sent to a crew working out of Quincy. In 1950 I was drafted into the Army, and was assigned to the 411<sup>th</sup> Signal Radio Relay Company in Camp Gordon, Georgia. I was lucky; spent about 8 months in school, and was not sent to Korea. I was discharged in 1952, and returned to the railroad. I was working in Galesburg, Illinois, when a local radio store sponsored a course on amateur radio; jumped at the chance, and received my novice license April 29, 1960. My first rig was a small Knight, 850 watt transmitter, and a good Hammarlund HQ180 receiver. That first year I assembled a Johnson Valiant transmitter from a kit, and that was a labor of love. Because I was foreman of a signal crew, the railroad furnished a private living car, which was a retired Pullman sleeper, and a 40 meter doublet fit nicely on its roof. I operated mobile two years from my railroad car, and that was a fun time. In 1962, I was assigned Signal Maintainer here in Hannibal, and set up my rig in my apartment at 121 South Maple. I married Alice Loyd here, in 1967, and was transferred to Council Bluffs. Through the years I worked several States, and we lived in Gladstone several years, which is a suburb north of Kansas City. I was working in Pasco, WA on March 14, 1986; was

operating to renew my license, and that was the last time I fired up my old rig. I retired from Burlington Northern railroad in 1987, and we moved back to Hannibal in 2003, and I lost my lovely wife to cancer the following year. Our son and our two grandchildren live in the Denver area. Cliff, KØCA, and Fred, KBØWIL, were largely responsible for my renewed interest in amateur radio, bought a new rig in 2007, and am again enjoying a fantastic hobby.

~~~~~  
Thanks Kermit, for sharing your very interesting story with us. Bonnie, WBØWAP  
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**Remember this is your club!! Be sure to participate in all of the upcoming yearly activities, Field Day, August picnic, and monthly meetings. Let's have fun with friends, and with an interesting & fun hobby. Watch our web-site, check in on Monday Night Net (146.625) at 8PM, show up every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month for meetings, and use those very special radios, and talent that you all have. Not everyone can learn how to properly use Amateur radios, and who knows, some day 'You may be needed to save some very important lives.'**

**Have another great month!**  
**73. Bonnie WBØWAP**



**ATTENTION!!! FOR SALE!!!**





**Pwr supply strapped for 240 VAC  
But can be changed to 120 V. Still  
Puts out full power. No scratches  
or dings. 10 mtr. Mod is done.  
Contact Tony, W0PGL.  
(573) 248-9053.**

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### **You Can Tell You're A Radio Nut when...**

**By A. Nony Mous**

Continued from last 2 months newsletters  
(1-15 in last 2 months)

16. You acknowledge conversations with your family and friends by saying your call sign - and they think it's normal.

17. The total number of radio related books in your home are five times the total number of all other books and magazines.

18. You store extra "emergency" AA batteries in the refrigerator.

19. You're immediately recognized and spoken to by name at your favorite radio dealers.

20. You think a good time is "breaking in" a new part-time Radio Shack employee with your radio wisdom.

21. Your spouse goes to the supermarket while you "look around" in Radio Shack.

22. You visually check your outdoor antennas and coax once a week, regardless of the weather.

23. People ask you to turn down the volume on the radios when they call you.

24. The total number of antennas on your house is greater than six other houses on your block-counting the ham down the street.

25. You've considered contacting NOAA offering your voice as a substitute for that awful sounding mechanical computer-generated voice.

26. People keep asking your family about the "light that's always on" in the back room where your radio shack is located.

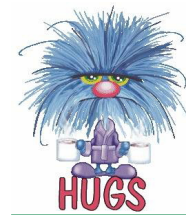
27. More than 95% of the photos in your family album show you with a radio strapped to your belt or a microphone in your hand.

28. You have more certificates and licenses on the wall than your local veterinarian or dentist.

29. Your cat or dog instinctively knows not to bother you when you're in your radio shack.

30. All the local cops know your vehicle on sight - "it's the Red Crown Vic with twelve antennas".

**That's all Folks!!!!!!!!!!**  
**Hope you enjoyed these!!**



Article submitted by Fred, KBØWIL

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